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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

November 28, 2018

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PROBLEM SOLVERS CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR  
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The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I am concerned over your decision to give Amazon \$1.7 billion in subsidies, in exchange for Amazon locating their second headquarters in New York City.

This deal disparages the existing hardworking New Yorkers struggling to keep their businesses open. These people deserve prioritization over companies like Amazon. They have demonstrated their ability to succeed in the current oppressive business climate of New York State.

To create jobs, attract new businesses and keep existing businesses in our state, New York needs lower taxes and a reasonable regulatory environment across the board. Something I know you recognize. As you said: "It's not a level playing field to begin with. All things being equal, if we do nothing, they're going to Texas."

I would like to work with you and the state legislature to ensure New York is one of the premier locations in the United States to own, start and expand a business – not just when incentives are offered.

While there are certain times when incentives must be offered to compete with other business-friendly states offering the same incentives, it is only fair for the people of this state this is done through diligent, thoughtful and bipartisan deliberation. Therefore, I would recommend requiring a three-fifths majority vote of the state legislature to approve any incentive package of this magnitude to encourage any single company to move to New York State. Meanwhile, we can work together to use the existing simple majority requirement in the state legislature to ensure businesses stay open and jobs remain in our state.

This is only fair for the hardworking businessmen and women of New York. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Tom Reed  
Member of Congress

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